

Amendments to the Claims

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Claims 1-12 (Cancelled).

13. (New) A printing apparatus for printing an image on a receiving substrate, the printing apparatus comprising:

- an ink applicator for imagewise applying liquid ink to a side of the receiving substrate;
- a drying section having an active drying device for active drying of the receiving substrate after said ink application;
- a transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate along a path past said ink applicator and through said drying section;

wherein said path includes a first substantially straight portion at said ink applicator, and a first and a second convex curve in said drying section, said first and second convex curve separated by a second substantially straight portion.

14. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said transportation device comprises a printing-transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate past said ink applicator and a drying-

transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate through said drying section, and wherein said printing-transportation device is suitable for high precision transport and said drying-transportation device is suitable for high temperature transport.

15. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said printing apparatus is an ink-jet printer.

16. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said receiving substrate is a separate sheet.

17. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said transportation device comprises a vacuum belt.

18. (New) A printing apparatus for printing an image on a receiving substrate, the printing apparatus comprising:

- a first ink applicator for imagewise applying liquid ink to a first side of the receiving substrate; ✓
- a first drying section having a first active drying device for active drying of the receiving substrate after said first ink application; ✓
- a first transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate along a first path past said first ink applicator and through said first drying section;

- a second ink applicator, different from said first ink applicator, for imagewise applying liquid ink to a second side of the receiving substrate opposite to said first side;

- a second drying section having a second active drying device for active drying of the receiving substrate after said second ink application;

- a second transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate along a second path past said second ink applicator and through said second drying section;

- and a take-over section for transferring said receiving substrate from said first path to said second path; and

wherein at least one of said first and second path includes a first substantially straight portion at said corresponding ink applicator, and a first and a second convex curve in said corresponding drying section, said first and second convex curve separated by a second substantially straight portion.

19. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein at least one of said first and second transportation device comprises a printing-transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate past said corresponding ink applicator and a drying-transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate through said

corresponding drying section, and wherein said printing-transportation device is suitable for high precision transport and said drying-transportation device is suitable for high temperature transport.

20. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said printing apparatus is an ink-jet printer.

21. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said receiving substrate is a separate sheet.

22. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 18 wherein at least one of said first and second transportation device comprises a vacuum belt.

23. (New) A method for producing an image on a receiving substrate in a printing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

- a. imagewise applying liquid ink to a first side of the receiving substrate;
- b. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a first substantially straight portion;
- c. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a first convex curve while actively drying the receiving substrate;
- d. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a

second substantially straight portion;

e. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a second convex curve while actively drying the receiving substrate.

24. (New) A method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

f. imagewise applying liquid ink to a second side of the receiving substrate opposite to said first side;

g. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a third substantially straight portion;

h. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a third convex curve while actively drying the receiving substrate.

25. (New) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

i. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a forth substantially straight portion;

j. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a forth convex curve while actively drying the receiving substrate.

26. (New) A method for producing an image on a receiving substrate in a printing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

- a. imagewise applying liquid ink to a first side of the receiving substrate;
- b. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a first substantially straight portion;
- c. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a first convex curve while actively drying the receiving substrate;
- d. imagewise applying liquid ink to a second side of the receiving substrate opposite to said first side;
- e. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a second substantially straight portion;
- f. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a second convex curve while actively drying the receiving substrate;
- g. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a third substantially straight portion;
- h. subsequently transporting the receiving substrate along a third convex curve while actively drying the receiving substrate.
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